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was not a single coffee-plant, and now the produce of that article is greater than that of the whole of the West India Islands. This had been the work of European capital and skill directing native labour. With reference to the importation of gold and silver, he thought Mr. Markham was mistaken in supposing that the natives buried the money. With the increase of wealth, the wages of labour are doubled in India; consequently a double quantity of silver is required in this case alone. He was satisfied that the burying of silver is carried out but to a trifling extent.

The PRESIDENT said he agreed completely with what had fallen from Lord Donoughmore with respect to the necessity of having an exit for the produce of the country; and he could not help arriving at the conviction, after having heard this paper by so eminent an officer of the Indian Government, that the Government would surely provide an opening to the river—it might be by the construction of a canal—and also establish a port for the shipment of cotton and other products brought down from an area of many thousand square miles of a most magnificent country.

The second Paper read was—

2. *Visit to the Ruined Palaces and Buildings of Cambodia.*

By Dr. BASTIAN.

THE principal ruins of Cambodia are concentrated in the province of Siemrab. The remains of an old palace at Panom Sok were the first visited by the author, who left the road from Bangkok to Battabong at Tasavai, and pursued a north-easterly direction in reaching the place. The whole country between Siam and Cambodia is an inclined plain, sloping towards the sea; but a portion of the valley of Cambodia, near the Thalesab Lake, is subject to inundation during the rainy season, and at the time of Dr. Bastian's journey (December), he found the whole country a swamp. Of this he had been warned by a Siamese nobleman, who told him that "the ground was not yet dry enough for carts, and not wet enough for boats." He found here the great high-road constructed by the ancient Cambodians, which extends hence an unknown distance into the interior of Cochin China. A remarkable feature was the fine stone bridges which spanned even the lesser streams which it traversed. One of them was a colossal structure, 400 feet long and 50 feet broad, supported on 30 arched pillars, all now overgrown with rank vegetation, but still uninjured. The author believes these structures prove the ancient inhabitants to have been a highland people, as a lowland race, like the present Cambodians, show no such predilection for land-conveyance, but delight in boat-travelling along their rivers and swamps. In a shed in the forest which surrounds the ancient bridge, Dr. Bastian found a collection of images of Brahminical deities. The remainder of the paper was occupied with an account of the author's examination of the great temple of Nakhon Vat and the remains of Nakhon Tom, the ancient capital of Cambodia, and

other towns. The crowded sculptures on columns and portals generally represent events in Hindoo mythology. The inscriptions are in the ancient language of Cambodia, which is now unintelligible to the people, although the author, with the help of some priests, had made some progress in deciphering them—a task on which he was still employed.

The PRESIDENT said the author was a native of Bremen, and was still exploring in those regions. The paper was interesting to the Society from its connection with the researches of the late M. Mouhot, the admirable explorer of Siam and Cambodia, whose widow is a relative of the great traveller Mungo Park, and who is necessarily much interested in the success of her late husband's excellent work. Dr. Bastian had gone more minutely into the architectural features of the ruins in Cambodia, and he therefore hoped Mr. Fergusson would offer some observations.

Mr. FERGUSSON observed that he would have been happy to afford information on this subject, and might have done so, if he had had access to such detailed drawings as would have enabled him to form an opinion on the subject. So far as he could ascertain, the buildings were not very ancient; they belonged probably to some period between the tenth and fourteenth centuries of our era, and must have been built by some Hindoo colony that migrated into the country. They are subsequent to the Bhudhist epoch, and display a certain admixture of Chinese and Hindoo architecture in a very corrupt and debased style. They resembled more the Hindoo buildings in Java than any others now known. At the eastern end of the island of Java there are certain half-Bhudhist, half-Hindoo remains, which resemble those of Cambodia in many respects.

Mr. CRAWFORD said he thought the architecture and material inferior to those of Java. The dates of the Javanese remains, which are perfectly well-preserved, belong to the twelfth and thirteenth centuries. The buildings consist chiefly of trap or basalt, which is much more durable than sandstone, of which the Cambodian buildings consist. There existed a connection between the two countries; Java being called by the Malays *Champa*, which was a Malay word, as was also *Cambodia*, correctly *Kamboja*. We must not argue, from the grandeur of the buildings, that the Cambodian people were in a high state of civilisation, because Hindoos were no doubt employed as architects. The only circumstance which would give rise to a different opinion is the existence of the bridge described by Dr. Bastian. He did not believe there was such a bridge throughout the whole of India. The people were a peculiar race, extending from the eastern border of Bengal all the way to China. A certain amount of Hindoo civilisation prevails until you come to Cochin-China and Tonquin; and then you meet with a considerable portion of Chinese civilisation, the people following the manners and customs of the Chinese. They speak different languages, but all of them are monosyllabic, like the Chinese tongues.

Before the adjournment of the meeting the Secretary read a letter from Mr. Petherick, late Consul of the Soudan, announcing his approaching visit to England.
